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PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

I.—*An Account of the Route and Appearances of the Country through which the Arctic Land Expedition passed, from Great Slave Lake to the Polar Sea.* Communicated by Captain Back, R.N. Read 23rd November, 1835.

It will be remembered that in December, 1831, about two months previous to the departure of the expedition so generously promoted by his Majesty's Government and the public to afford relief to Captain Ross and his long-absent companions, a paper was communicated by me, afterwards inserted in the Journal of the Society, descriptive of the usual canoe route as far as the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment at Great Slave Lake, in latitude 61° 10′ 26″ N., longitude 113° 45′ 0″ W., and of the course intended to be pursued afterwards, for the further attainment of the interesting object of my mission. In the following statement I give the result of my observations, after leaving Fort Resolution, in the prosecution of my journey.

On quitting the Fort we went through some of the winding channels formed by the numerous islands in the delta of Slave River; and, having passed Stony Island, which, as Dr. Richardson remarks in the Appendix to Franklin's First Journey, "is a naked mass of red granite, fifty or sixty feet high, precipitous on the north side, and lying near the junction of the flat limestone strata with the primitive rocks," we kept along the low and swampy south shore, thickly matted with drift-wood; and made for a jutting elevation called Rocky Point, whence the lake trends to the eastward, receiving three rivers within a distance of forty miles, viz., the Telh-tcha-ho-desseh, the Thu-wu-desseh, and the Yes-na-desseh, or Wolf River, all of which are frequented by the Chipewyans, who report that near the last, the shore, still low, inclines to the north, and is indented into bays, which are entered by three more streams of an inferior size. It then rather suddenly rounds to the westward, and terminates in a narrow neck of land called Point Keith. It does not appear, by the many accounts procured from the Indians, that the lake extends to the eastward at this part beyond the 112th degree of longitude.

From Rocky Point, the last place within the knowledge of the voyageurs, we struck off in a northerly direction towards a distant cluster of islands, which, owing to the refraction of the atmosphere, appeared to be poised in the sky.

The traverse here is dangerous, from the frequent storms to which it is exposed, and is greatly dreaded by the Indians, who, in attempting to cross in their small canoes, are sometimes surprised midway and thrown into the most perilous situation. To the members of the expedition it is associated with another melancholy reflection, for it formed the death-spot of poor Augustus, our Esquimaux interpreter, who, in his zeal to join our party, lost the path, and worn down by privation, was overwhelmed in a snow-storm while endeavouring to retrace his steps across the ice to Fort Resolution. The islands are mostly granitic, the rocks being either of a grey colour, with plates of mica, or consist of red felspar and quartz. The more southerly islands are partially wooded by small clumps of dwarf pines, and produce whortleberries, cranberries, and crowberries. Birch was seen on others; but many were totally destitute of herbage, and presented a round and barren aspect, contrasting strongly with the shelving and precipitous sides of those that support pine trees. Farther to the north the rocks attain a greater elevation, being generally from 200 to 1000 feet high, resembling the bluff and broken features of those to the westward, near the Gros Cap of Mackenzie, but still more like the red granite hills in the neighbourhood of Fort Chipewyan and upper part of the Slave River. They are very dissimilar to the low, swampy, limestone tracts that we had left, and are almost totally destitute of the drift timber which is piled in such immense quantities about Fort Resolution and on the more western shores of the lake. The clear green north-eastern waters also contrast strongly with the turbid yellow streams of the Slave Lake, hurrying towards the Mackenzie. Conical isolated hills are in various places separated by narrow passages from the larger islands, and their truly picturesque outlines, rent into vast chasms and craggy fissures, and rising upwards of 1200 feet, were as imposing as they were novel and unexpected. It is near to this that Point Keith, jutting from the southern main, describes the deep bay already mentioned. The islands thence stretch to the westward, and under the appellation of Simpson's Group, cover a space of thirty-two miles from north to south, and forty from east to west. The fish called by the traders the 'inconnu,' or *Salmo Mackenzii* of Richardson, is caught amongst them, but does not go farther south than the rapids in Slave River. The land extends from Point Keith almost due east upwards of seventy-five miles, and is designated on the chart Christie's Bay. Four islands, with perpendicular sides, are visible in that direction, leaving a clear horizon beyond them; but the south shore, according to the testimony of the Indians, is bent into bays that receive two large rivers, named the White Sand River and the Teh-zu-desseh,* which latter is said to take its rise near the Fond du Lac of the Athabasca, though it is joined by another branch, the particulars of whose course, farther than is marked on the chart, I could not learn; a circumstance the more difficult to account for, since the country around it is the favourite hunting-ground of many of the Chipewyans.

The channel between Point Keith and the northern shore of the lake is interrupted by Etthen-nueh, or Rein-deer Island, remarkable for its table-land with perpendicular cliffs, resting on sloping and irregular declivities that gradually descend to the water's edge, and are thickly covered with low wood. A point that forms the western extreme of a small bay was so diversified in its formation as to induce us to land to examine it. Either from the grinding pressure of the ponderous masses of ice that are here heaped up, or from the incessant action of breaking waves, the whole line of shore, for two or three miles, is composed of a kind of pudding-stone, consisting of fragments, all more or less globular, cemented by a yellowish clay of considerable tenacity, and which, becoming indurated, has united them into a substance as durable as rock. The height of this kind of beach to its junction with the adjacent rocks, is from six to forty feet; while these, acquiring elevation as they recede, soon attain the altitude of from 1400 to 2000 feet, contrasting widely in their ruggedness with the flowing outline of the western main shore, which is seen from hence to the extent of about fifteen miles. To the right, and within three miles of the main, is Peth-the-nueh, or Owl Island, which, at the end of sixty-two miles, forms with its opposite high land the narrow opening into Christie's Bay. The point next rounded is steep and perpendicular, and is often resorted to by the Indians, for the purpose of obtaining a variegated marl of a greenish grey colour, with which they make their calumêts and pipes. A similar substance of a reddish tint, as well as one of a pure white, both admitting of a high polish, is also found beyond the eastern limits of the lake. Proceeding to the north and east, Peth-the-nueh has altogether an imposing appearance, owing to its trap formation, which exhibits long lines of mural precipices, rising one above another, and capped by even and round eminences thinly clad with meagre pines. It was impossible to look at these without being forcibly reminded of the same appearance, but without trees, observable between the Coppermine

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* The Zant-desseh is the Yellow Knife River, and gives name to the Copper Indians, who are said to have emigrated from its banks to the Coppermine River.

River and Point Barrow, which, says Dr. Richardson, ' is exceedingly sterile, one cliff rising above another with stony valleys between, almost destitute of herbage. The predominant rocks are liver-brown clink-stone porphyry, with a few beds of earthy-green stone. The same formation extends to the mouth of Wentzels River, the trap cliffs succeeding each other with tiresome uniformity, and their debris entirely covering the narrow valleys that intervene, to the exclusion of all vegetation.' The islands to seaward of Point Barrow, on the west, are also amygdaloidal, or nearly of the same material; and this formation would thus seem to run in a line almost due south to Great Slave Lake, where it becomes amalgamated, or lost in the granite district, occupying an extensive range to, and beyond, Fort Chipewyan. The main shore of the lake is also mountainous and rocky, but consists chiefly of gneiss and porphyry; and at a contracted part of the channel, called Tal-thel-leh, the water is said never to freeze, a fact not attributable to any particular strength of current, which indeed was not more than perceptible, but which during two winters was found to be correctly reported, though from what cause could not be ascertained. It was close by this that an island was seen displaying a barren and round outline to the north, but broken into a columnar or basaltic form to the south. The altitude of the shore varies only in a trifling degree, until the ' mountain ' (so distinguished by the Chipewyans) attracts the attention. This has not, however, any great advantage over the neighbouring land, more than as the chosen place where they leave their canoes when striking into the interior. From it is seen the bold and picturesque land of Gah-hooa-tchel-la, or Rabbit Point, more than 2000 feet high, almost perpendicular, and evidently a part of the same formation, or a continuation of Peth-the-nueh, from which it is separated to the south and west by the opening leading into Christie's Bay.

Both shores of the lake begin now to approximate, preserving however their distinct characters; that to the north being round-backed and grey, with a few trees; that to the south precipitous, cliffy, and almost barren. A passage three-quarters of a mile in width extends from M'Leod's Bay to another nearly land-locked bay; and at its northern termination was the selected spot of our winter quarters, Fort Reliance, in latitude 62° 46′ 29″ N., and longitude 109° 0′ 39″ W. It was preferred, not only from being the eastern extremity of Great Slave Lake, but also because it was represented to abound in animals and fish, and calculated, accordingly, to support a large party; which character was verified for a limited period; but early after the setting in of the frost both supplies failed, the animals going far away, and the fish merely frequenting this part during the time of spawning, most likely from the absence of the trout and pike found in great numbers farther west, where the water, discoloured by the muddy deposits from the Slave River, is less clear, and possibly more favourable for their depredations. On several occasions the spawn of the white fish was found in the intestines of the trout.

The rocks inclosing this part are like those already noticed, but more acclivitous, with some trees of a stunted growth, but little other vegetation beyond moss. Many attain a considerable altitude, rising successively in rounded forms, so smooth and steep as scarcely to admit of a resting-place for the winter's snow. The small, though deep, intervening valleys are generally swampy, and produce a coarse, long grass, or are choked up with moss-covered debris, or large fragments of rocks. The sandy plain on which the house was erected is about three miles broad, and hemmed in east and west by two rivers, which run along the bases of parallel ranges of granitic hills, varying in height, but alike barren and difficult of access. This plain is comparatively level, and within the space of half-a-mile ten other similar platforms with embankments gradually rise towards the uneven and rocky valleys which lead to the barren lands. It seems as though the water of Great Slave Lake had once been so high as to have had the upper of these embankments for its boundary, and had since subsided to its present level;—an idea in some measure countenanced by the encroachment of Lake Winnipeg on its northern banks, which, connected with other reasons, lately induced the Hudson's Bay Company to change the situation of their establishment to a more firm and eligible spot. Immediately north of the Fort, including the space between Hoar-frost and Ah-hel-desseh rivers, which is from twenty-two to thirty-four miles in breadth, the country is mountainous, consisting, for the greater part, of a coarse granite, in which red felspar and large plates of mica are conspicuous, traversed occasionally by veins of very white quartz. The ascent towards the barren lands may be taken at 1400 feet; and at one point, not more than fifteen miles from the house, the Indians reported that at all seasons, summer and winter, a high and dense column of smoke was seen to issue from a deep cavern, which had never been examined by any of their tribe, who rather conjectured it to be the abode of some ‘manito,’ or evil spirit, and therefore could not be induced to approach too near, lest such intrusion might rouse its anger, and misfortune should befall them. Aware how liable these people are to exaggerate any unusual appearance to which the aid of superstition has been added by their forefathers, I at first paid little attention to this narration; but when two men of the expedition, remarkable for acuteness of observation, verified it, as far as they could judge from a distance, I thought it necessary to visit the spot, when the smoke alluded to was discovered to be caused by a noble fall, which hurled its foaming waters into a chasm 400 feet deep, and sent up the vapoury column that had deceived so many. It was March when I visited it, and the falling spray had frozen against the high and perpendicular face of the rocks, to which overhanging masses of ice, of a bright green and pale blue colour, with pendant icicles, gave the semblance of an iceberg.

We ascended the 1400 feet above mentioned, by means of carrying our canoe over craggy and difficult portages,—a task rendered infinitely painful by the incessant attacks of myriads of mosquitos and sand-flies. We also stemmed the rapid current of the Hoar-frost River, amidst high and beetling rocks, whose grey and time-worn outline often represented (without the aid of imagination) some ruined and turreted castle. Proceeding to the north, along Artillery Lake, the country assumed a more open aspect, with sloping moss-covered hills, on which clumps of wood, far and wide between, seldom topping the summits, but often found in the valleys, indicated the decrease of vegetation of the larger kind; and in latitude 63° 15 N., the pine, after dwindling down from the height of six feet to eighteen inches, disappeared altogether.

It was here then that the barren lands fairly commenced; and at no great distance to the eastward we found a long, narrow lake, which, according to the testimony of the Indians, is devoid of current; but after trending to the north-east, it was said to be joined by the waters of a smaller lake, and then, taking a more easterly direction, to be connected by means of a rapid with another singularly-shaped lake, from which it ultimately empties itself by a contracted stream into the broad and gently-flowing The-lew-desseh—a river of magnificent dimensions by all accounts, and which, from its easterly course, I think, probably falls into Chesterfield Inlet. The natives affirm, indeed, that its source is not far from the north end of Athabasca Lake, and that they resort to its banks for the double purpose of hunting and procuring birch, of the bark of which they construct canoes; but as this latter material is extremely scarce, even round the south and west shores of Great Slave Lake, and becomes more rugged, and therefore less adapted for use as it approaches the Arctic Sea, there does not seem much probability of the The-lew-desseh's stretching far in that direction; and this opinion exactly coincides with the statement of the 'Camarade de Mandeville,' a Chipewyan chief, who described it as always gaining to the right hand when he was looking towards the north. Until this came to my knowledge, I rather imagined it to be identical with Baillie's River, which joins the Thlew-ee-choh, in longitude 104° 18′ W.; but the facts thus stated, together with the Indians having seen the The-lew-desseh actually beyond the point of junction of these two rivers, lead rather tō the inference that its course must carry it near the inlet alluded to. Hearne must have crossed it in his journey to the Coppermine with Matonnabbee; and it is doubtless the Thele-aza river of his map.

Resuming the track of the Expedition, Artillery Lake, the name given to the first of the above lakes, is connected with Clinton-Colden Lake by a short but rapid stream; and the latter lake is next joined to Lake Aylmer by a narrow strait, in which the current runs from west to east. The surrounding country is characterized by the low altitude of the hills, which are more or less covered with large boulders, and decline to the water's edge.

Islands are numerous in all these lakes, many of them consisting solely of one immense rock, whose grey surface is not unpleasingly varied by lichens and a scanty growth of rein-deer moss. Their summits were usually crowned by huge stones or splintered fragments of the same substance, either standing upright or in slanting positions, which produced a bold effect when illuminated by the bright rays of the setting sun. Sand was at first seen along the beach, but it soon rose into banks and mounds; and finally, at the northern extreme of Lake Aylmer, hills of some magnitude, and dipping to the north-west, indicate the height of land that feeds Sussex Lake, the source of the Thlew-ee-choh-dezeth. It is a small lake, encompassed by low, shelving declivities, thickly studded with stones and rocks, whose intervening spaces are filled up with green moss, dwarf birch, and other small shrubs. In the centre of the lake stands a rocky island, and to the west a low ridge of sand-hills, which terminates abruptly, and leaves a free passage for the egress of the water to the north.

Within a mile of this, there is a slight descent, forming a shallow rapid, distant only three-quarters of a mile from Lake Aylmer, which may be considered three feet lower than the highest part of the dividing land. About half way between the two there is a large pond, with a few shrubs and willows near its margin. The Thlew-ee-choh winds its way through sand-hills (which, as previously noticed, dip north-west), and passes the first rocks of gneiss *in situ* about four miles down the stream. They have an even or tabular surface, and are broken into perpendicular cliffs about five feet high, which face to the east. Several rapids immediately succeed, and two rivers (one of which finds its way under a canopy of ice) contribute their waters from the east and west.

Having passed a circular piece of water, called Musk Ox Lake, from the number of those animals seen on its banks, the Thlew-ee-choh is joined by a large river, said by the Indians to come from Contwoy-to Lake, passed by Hearne in 1771, and more recently by Sir John Franklin in 1821. If this be the case, as they all positively affirmed, that lake must have two outlets* almost opposite and far removed from each other—a circumstance, considering the mountainous nature of the ground, rather improbable. But as two other lakes were said to intervene between it and our position, there seems a great likelihood that it may owe its origin to one of these; at least such an inference would be more in accordance with the general features of the country.

The Thlew-ee-choh next cuts its way transversely through a mountain range running east and west, and then becomes very much interrupted by rapids, the force of which is greatly augmented by the contribution of tributaries from either side. Sand-banks also begin again to appear, and hills of a few hundred feet, with long sloping declivities partially covered with the usual fragments, form the leading characteristics. At length, in latitude 65° 40′ N., and longitude 106° 35′ W., within sixty miles of the southern extremity of Bathurst's Inlet, a barrier of mountains turns it away to the east, and thus were destroyed the hopes, up to that time entertained, of our getting to the Polar Sea in that direction.

The rocks along the lake which next opened to us are extremely rugged and desolate, and in many places bear a close resemblance to the lava round Vesuvius. The small prairies between the rocks afford pasturage for rein-deer, which were seen in vast numbers. Some cascades, a mile and a half long, with sixty feet descent, terminate the lake; and then the river, with an increased current, follows the windings of a line of sand-hills, generally of a conical shape, and partly covered with grass. Three isolated mountains of gneiss were here also seen, and opposite to them were found some old marks, evidently made by the Esquimaux, probably from Chesterfield Inlet, who might have easily come by a magnificent river, which joins the Thlew-ee-choh from the south a few miles lower down, almost in a line with the inlet.

The country beyond this is low, flat, and very sandy, with an occasional smooth hill rent into water-courses; and here and there, at intervals not exceeding half a mile from each other, the obtuse and rounded tops of a few dark rocks peep above and chequer the surface of the yellow sand. Afterwards a mass of rocks occurs between which the current runs with extreme force. Beyond, several rivers join from both sides, and the main one expands into an extensive lake, with clear horizons at different points of the compass, where, as late as the 20th of July, the ice had not begun to break up. Many islands are here found, and the ridges and cones of sand of which they are composed are not only of considerable height, but are most singularly and remarkably crowned with immense boulders, grey with lichen, which we would most assuredly have considered to have been set up by design had not the total impossibility of moving such enormous masses, from we knew not where, proved that they were the work of nature.

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* Congecatha-wa-chaga River is an outlet of Contwoy-to Lake.

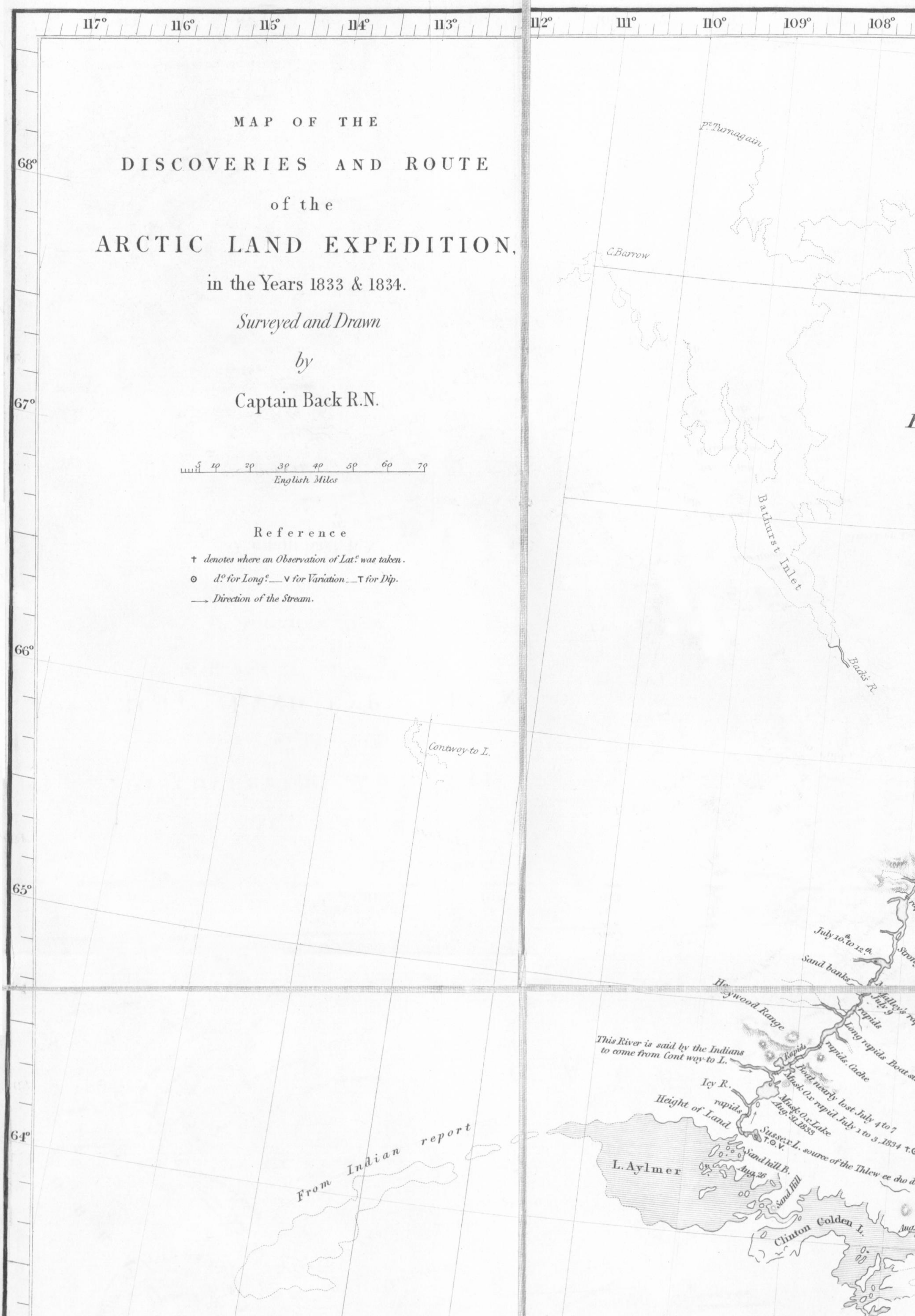
A succession of dangerous falls and rapids next took us to the south-east, until at length, in latitude 65° 54′ 18″ N., longitude 98° 10′ 7″ W., the river burst with fury between four *granitic* mountains, which, like immense flood-gates, diverted its course, and made it flow tolerably directly towards the north. Before this it seemed uncertain where it might terminate, this position not being far from the heads both of Wager Bay and Chesterfield Inlet.

The stream now became from half a mile to a mile wide, with a current of whirlpools and rapids of the most fearful description; and the adjoining country was far more rugged and mountainous than before. Indeed, it was not until this stage that rocks had been observed to the eastward of us at all. Having passed through another lake much impeded by ice, the river next turned towards the east, and led to a steep fall, where many Esquimaux were employed fishing. On the first alarm, the men assembled, armed with spears, slings, and knives, and manifested a hostile disposition; but subsequently they became pacified, and assisted in carrying the boat across a portage, which without their aid we should have had much difficulty in passing. These people were ignorant that any ship had been to the north, and testified their surprise at beholding Europeans, whom till that moment they had never seen. They described the sea as being near, and the coast as trending westerly towards Point Turnagain, and easterly towards Prince Regent's Inlet. To make the latter more clear, one of their number, who seemed the most intelligent, drew the coast line from our position towards the north, and making a direct turn to the eastward, led it away to the south of where we then stood; at which part he said, with considerable emphasis, there was no more sea, but plenty of musk oxen. This he repeated twice, and remarked that his countrymen always took that route in their canoes to a place called 'Ak-koo-lee,' which, according to Sir E. Parry, is a part of the shore of Regent's Inlet, somewhere to the southward and westward of Fury and Hecla Strait.

The sea was found in latitude 67° 7′ 31″ N., longitude 94° 39′ 45″ W.; and the mouth of the river was much embarrassed with shoals and sand-banks, while the view to the north was partly terminated by a lofty headland connected with the eastern range of mountains, which, after extending about forty-four miles to the north, ends abruptly in a high bluff, and goes away to the south-east, corresponding in that respect with the account given by the natives.

The western coast rounds off at once from ten to twenty miles from its opposite one, and is indented into deep bays or openings, whose general line of direction appeared to trend a little westerly. In this manner it continues to latitude 68° 13′ 57″ N., longitude 94° 58′ 1″ W., where it turns off to the west, the range of mountains in that direction suddenly terminating, and obviously trending towards Point Turnagain ;—obviously, I say, because they were not so remote from us but that their prolongation would have been visible had they merely rounded into a bay and then resumed their northern direction. There was also a clear icy horizon beyond the extreme point, with a strong current from the westward, which had brought some drift wood of the white pine species, known to be the growth of the Mackenzie River, so little sodden as to burn immediately it was ignited, which it would not have done if it had been long exposed to the action of the water. The vertebræ of a whale were also found near the same place. Due north were two blue objects, named on the chart Point Booth and Point James Ross, which seemed to be islands. In the north-east were water and ice, with what is denominated a water sky beyond. In the east the sea was perfectly clear, with one small island bearing E.b.S. from fifteen to twenty miles distant; and to the right of this was also a wide, open space of water before coming to the eastern land. The progress of the expedition was arrested solely by comparatively small drift ice, packed, by a continuation of heavy gales, against the western shore. To the east there was no obstacle of any description to prevent our sailing to wherever the open water might there lead, which, according to the authority already stated, is to Ak-koo-lee. The character of the obstructions to the west was also such as almost to prove that they were only fluctuating and occasional; and my impression therefore is, that further attempts at discovery may be here made with good prospect of success. A vessel detached to Repulse Bay, or Wager Inlet, with the means of transporting boats and stores across the intervening land to Ak-koo-lee, would, in my opinion, in one, or at most two seasons, complete the geographical delineation of this part of the American coast,—the only portion, it may be added, remaining, regarding the configuration of which any reasonable doubt can be still entertained.

The chief results of my late expedition, then, have been the determination of the physical aspect of the country north-east of Great Slave Lake, which was previously an entire blank in our maps, and the contribution of some additional facts regarding its coast-line. Of these facts the most important are the discovery of an open sea, nearly ninety miles south of Boothia, with a current flowing into it from the westward, making it probable that an open passage exists here from east to west. That this current, also, is



MAP OF THE
DISCOVERIES AND ROUTE
# of the
ARCTIC LAND EXPEDITION,
in the Years 1833 & 1834.

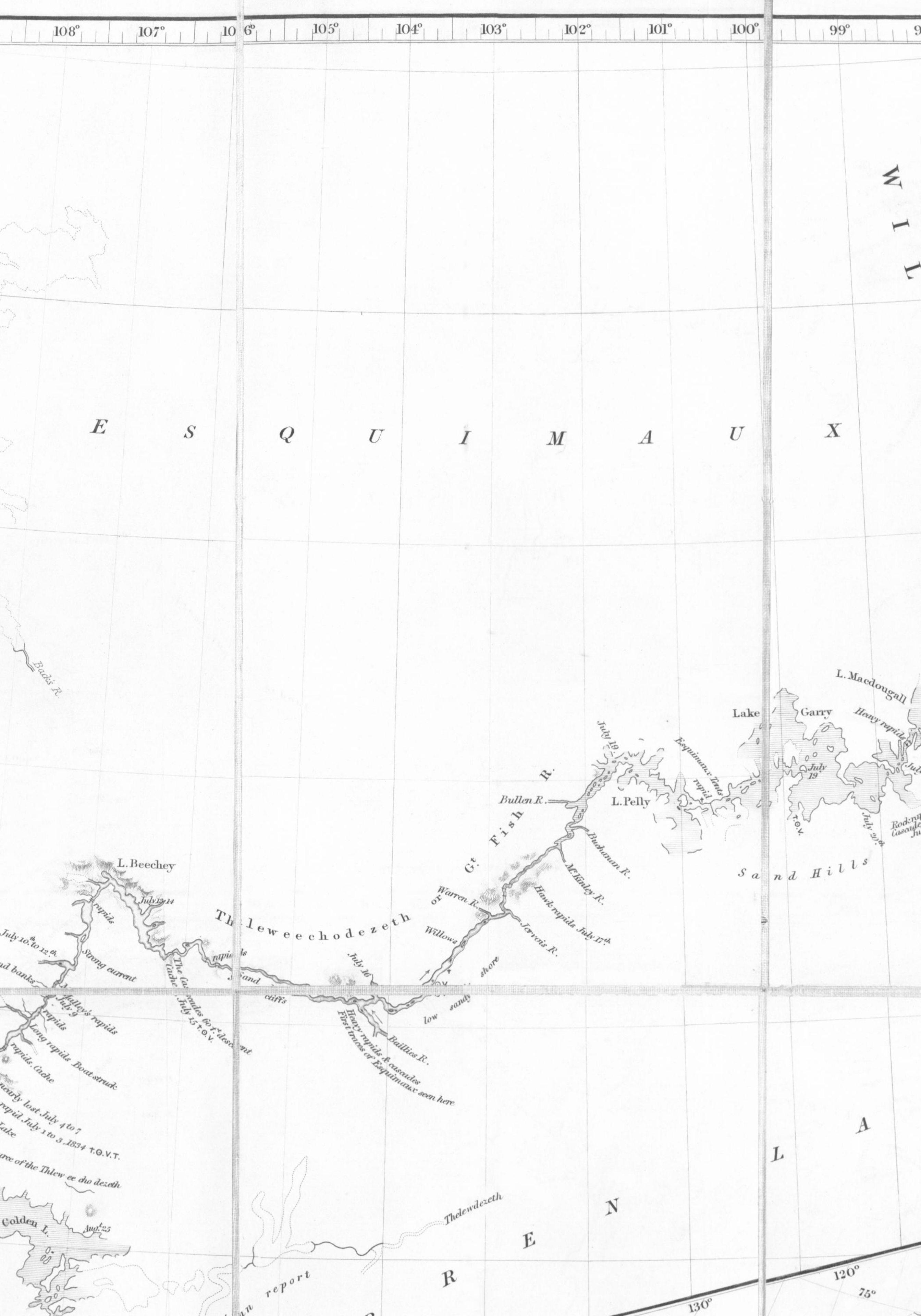
Surveyed and Drawn

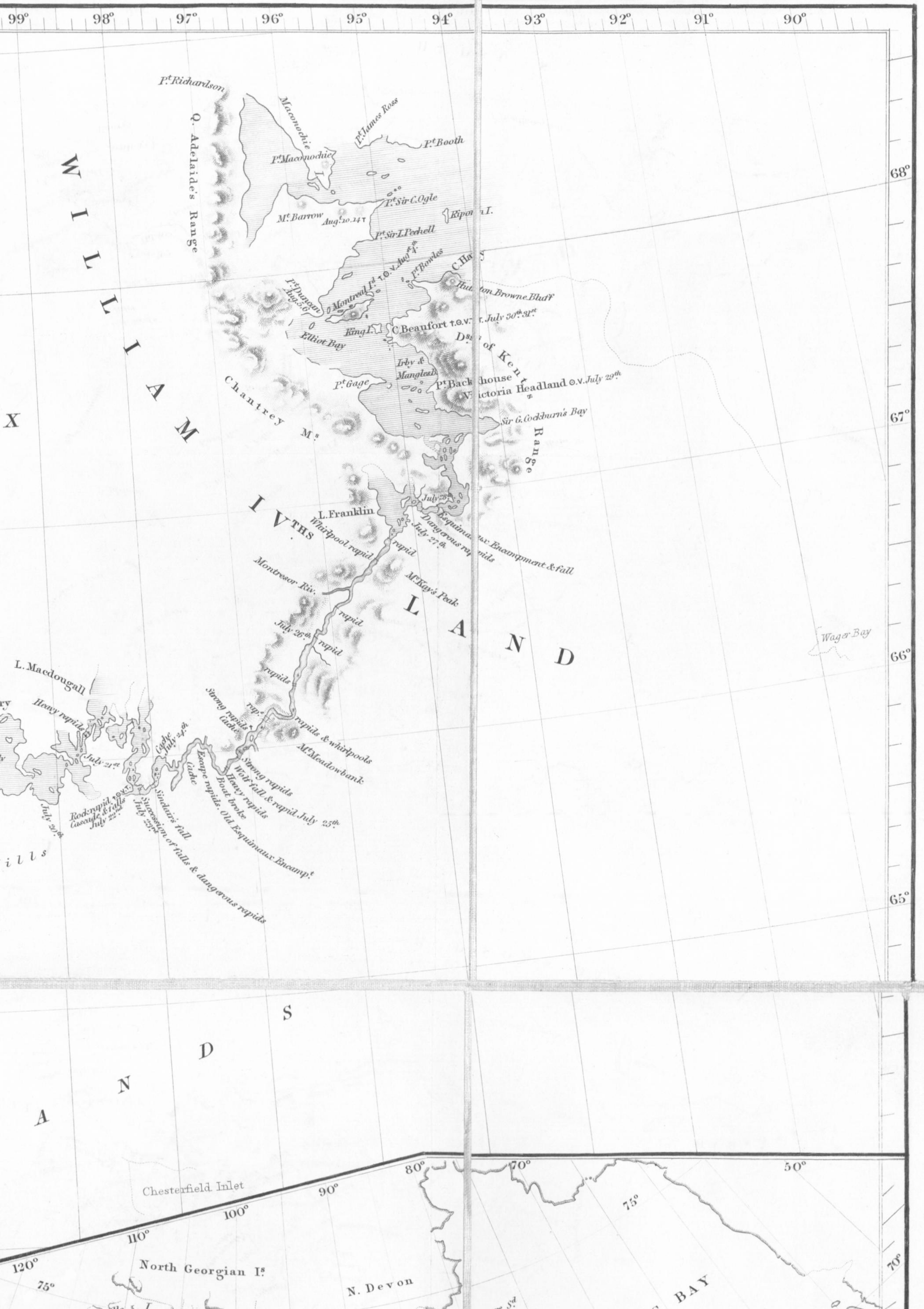
by

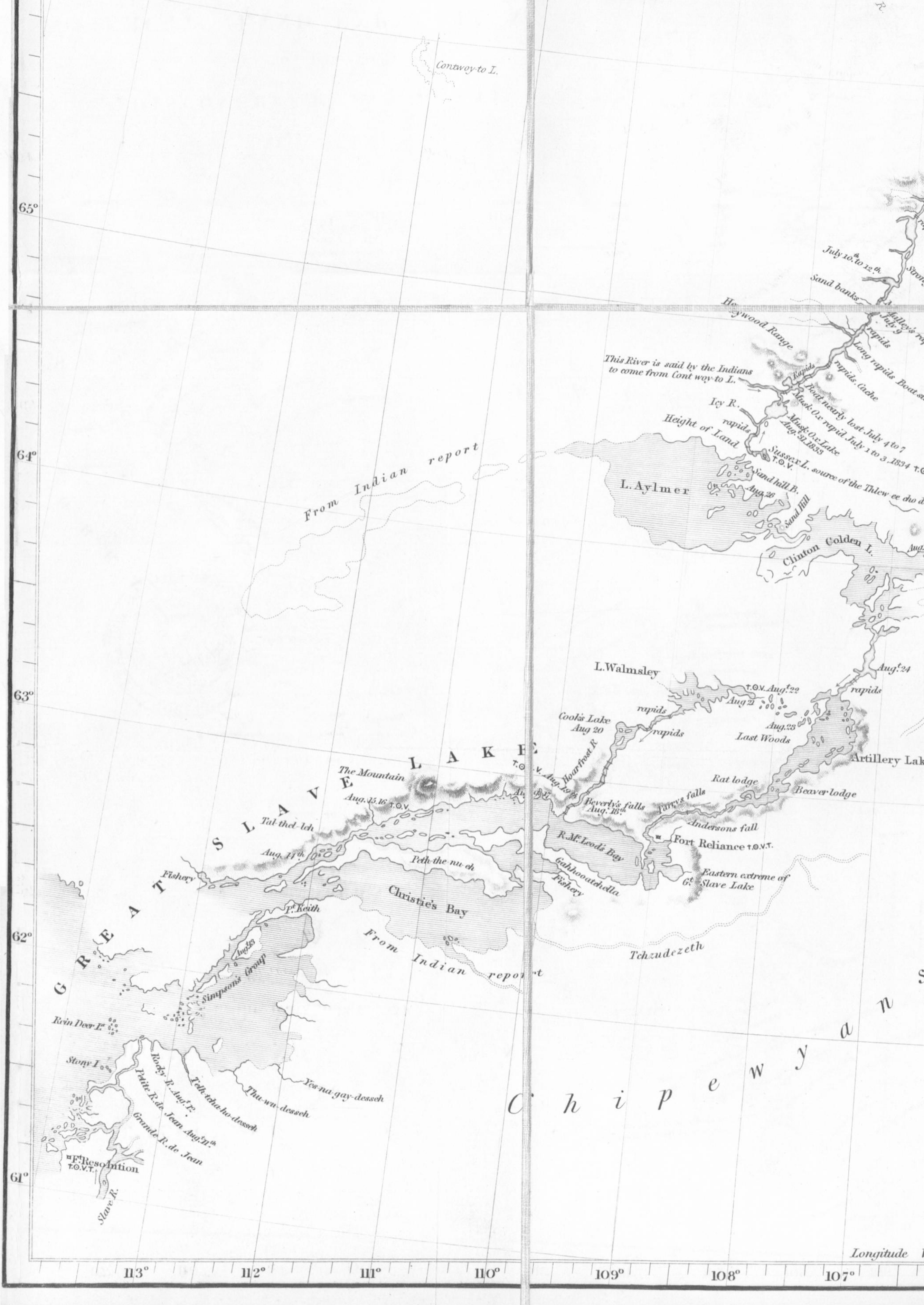
Captain Back R.N.

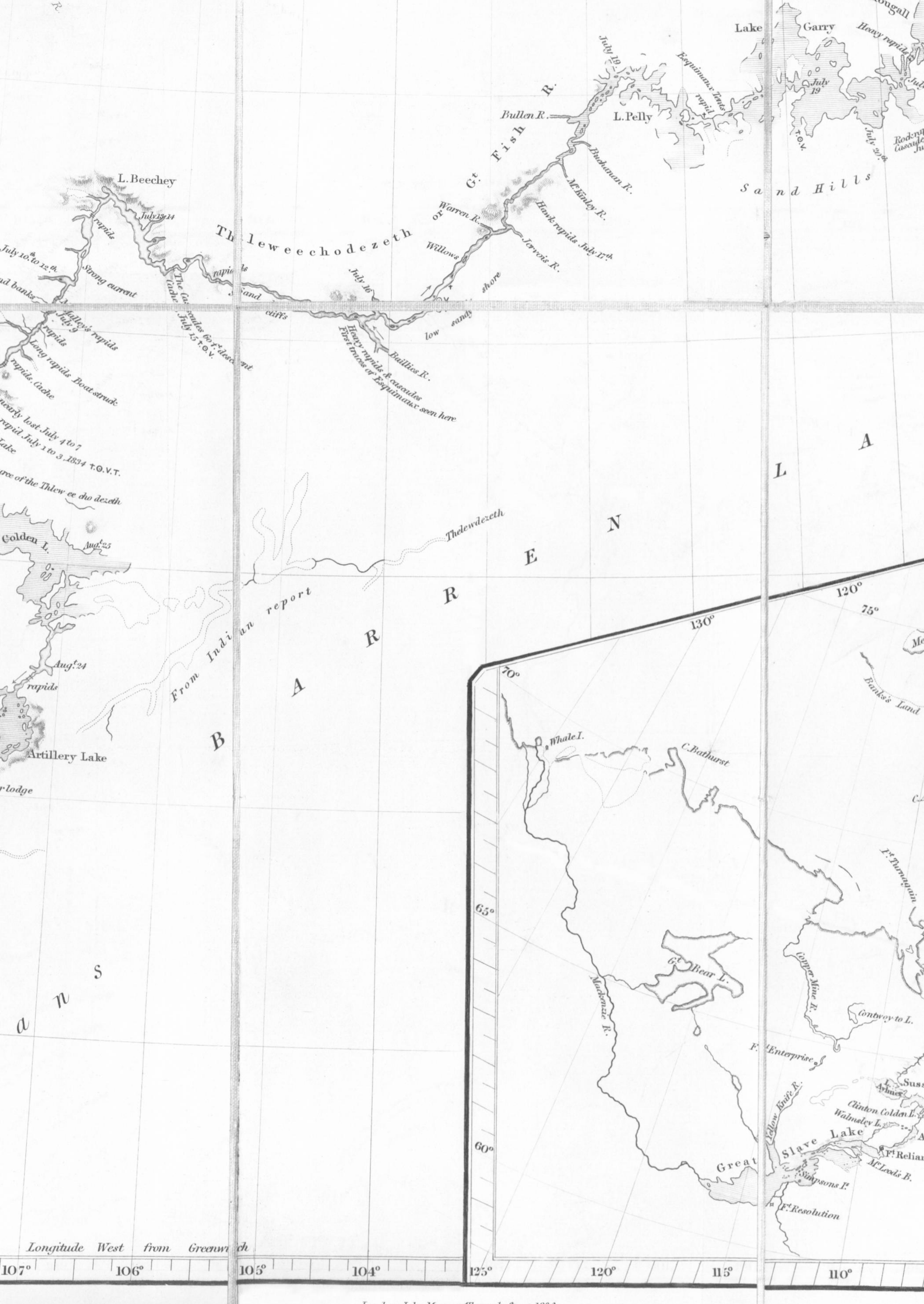
Reference

- † *denotes where an Observation of Lat.^e^ was taken.*
- ⊙ *d.° for Long.^e^ ___ ∨ for Variation ___ ⊤ for Dip.*
- ⟶ *Direction of the Stream.*

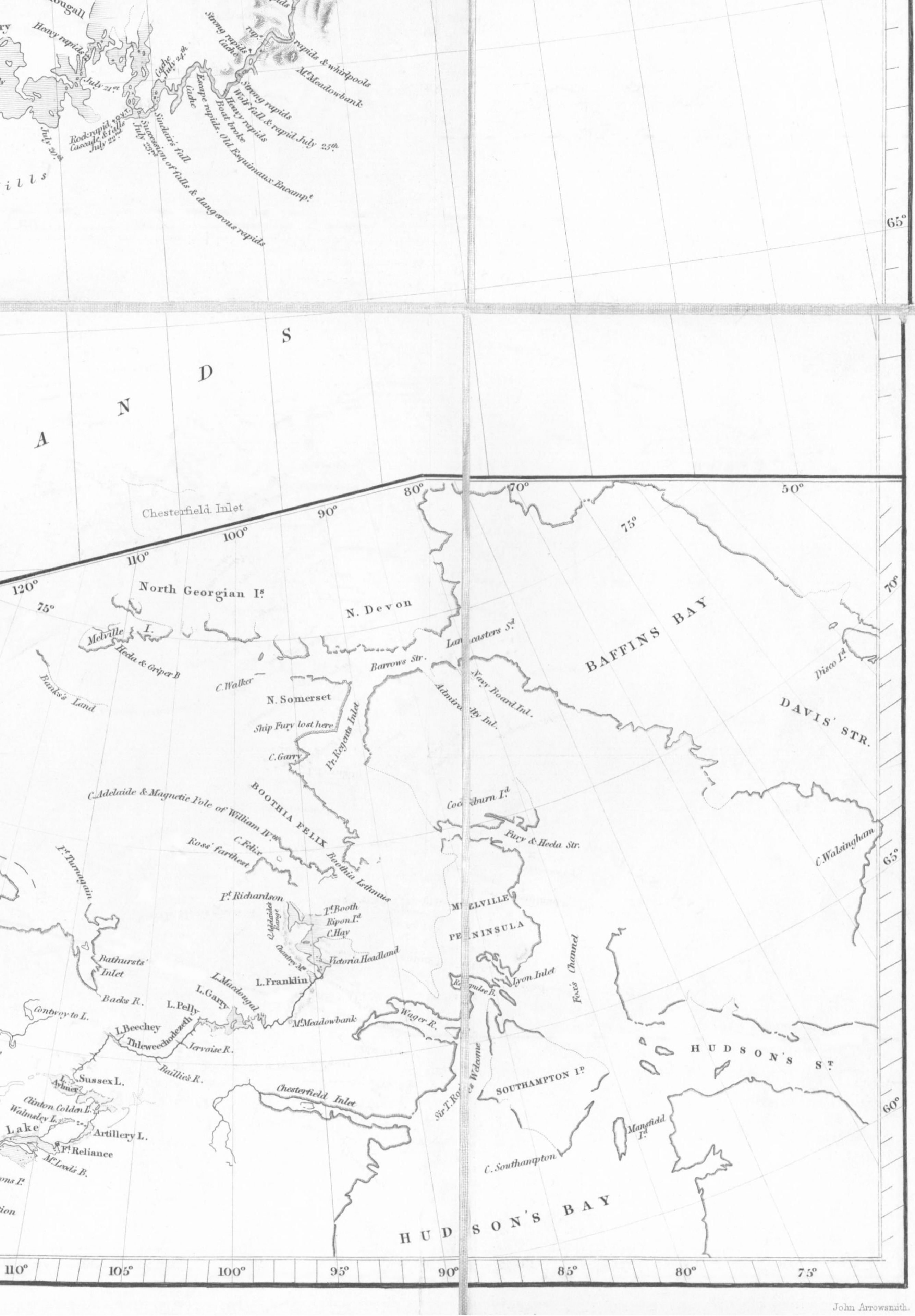

108°
107°
106°
105°
104°
103°
102°
101°
100°
99°
E S Q U I M A U X
W I L
Backs R.
L. Macdougall
Lake Garry
Heavy rapids
July 19
Esquimaux Tents
rapid
July 19
T.O.V.
July 20th
Rock rapids
Cascades
L. Pelly
Bullen R.
Gt Fish R.
Thleweechodezeth or Gt Fish R.
Buchanan R.
McKinley R.
Sand Hills
Warren R.
Hawk rapids July 17th
Jervois R.
Willows
L. Beechey
July 13 14
rapids
July 10th to 12th
Strong current
Sand banks
The cascades 60 ft descent
Cache July 15 T.O.V.
rapids
Sand cliffs
July 16
low sandy shore
Heavy rapids & cascades
First traces of Esquimaux seen here
Baillies R.
Halley's rapids
July 9
rapids
Long rapids Boat struck
rapids. Cache
nearly lost July 4 to 7
rapid July 1 to 3 1834 T.O.V.T.
Lake
Source of the Thlew ee cho dezeth
Golden L.
Augt 25
Thelewdezeth
report
R E N L A
130°
120°
75°


99°
98°
97°
96°
95°
94°
93°
92°
91°
90°
68°
67°
66°
65°
Pt. Richardson
Q. Adelaide's Range
Maconochie
Pt. James Ross
Pt. Booth
Pt. Maconochie
Pt. Sir C. Ogle
Mt. Barrow
Augt. 10. 14 ⊤
Ripon I.
Pt. Sir I. Pechell
Montreal Id. ⊤.⊙.V. Augst. 4th.
Pt. Bowles
C. Hay
Hutton Browne Bluff
Pt. Duncan Aug. 5. 6
King I.
C. Beaufort ⊤.⊙.V.⊤. July 30th. 31st.
Elliot Bay
Dgss. of Kent's Range
Irby & Mangles B.
Pt. Gage
Pt. Backhouse
Victoria Headland ⊙.V. July 29th.
Sir G. Cockburn's Bay
Chantrey Ms.
W I L L I A M I Vths. L A N D
X
July 28th.
L. Franklin
Whirlpool rapid
July 27th.
Dangerous rapids
Esquimaux Encampment & fall
rapid
Montresor Riv.
Mt. Kay's Peak
rapid
July 26th.
rapid
rapids
Strong rapids
rap.
Cache
rapids & whirlpools
Mt. Meadowbank
Strong rapids
Wolf fall & rapid July 25th.
Heavy rapids
Boat broke
Escape rapids. Old Esquimaux Encampt.
Cache
Cache July 24th.
Sinclair's fall
Succession of falls & dangerous rapids
July 23rd.
Rockrapid ⊙V.T.
Cascade & falls July 22nd.
July 21st.
L. Macdougall
Heavy rapids
ry
July 20th.
ills
Wager Bay
S
D
N
A
Chesterfield Inlet
120°
110°
100°
90°
80°
70°
50°
75°
75°
70°
North Georgian Is.
N. Devon
BAY


Contwoy-to L.
65°
July 10th to 12th
Sand banks
Strong
Heywood Range
July 9
rapids
Long rapids Boat st
This River is said by the Indians to come from Cont woy-to L.
Rapids
rapids. Cache
Boat nearly lost July 4 to 7
Musk Ox rapid July 1 to 3 1834 T.O.
Musk Ox Lake
Aug. 31 1833
Icy R.
rapids
Height of Land
Sussex L. source of the Thlew ee cho d
T.O.V.
64°
From Indian report
L. Aylmer
Sand hill B.
Aug. 26
Sand Hill
Clinton Golden L.
Aug.
L. Walmsley
T.O.V. Augt 22
Aug 21
Augt 24
rapids
63°
Cook's Lake Aug 20
rapids
rapids
Aug. 23
Last Woods
Artillery Lak
GREAT SLAVE LAKE
The Mountain
T.O.V. Aug. 19th
Hoarfrost R.
Aug. 15.16 T.O.V.
Aug. 17
Beverly's falls Augt. 18th
Parry's falls
Rat lodge
Beaver lodge
Tal-thel-leh
Andersons fall
Fort Reliance T.O.V.T.
Aug. 14th
R. McLeod's Bay
Peth-the-nu-eh
Fishery
Gahhooatchella
Fishery
Eastern extreme of Gt. Slave Lake
Christie's Bay
Pt. Keith
62°
Augt 13
From Indian report
Tchzudezeth
Simpsons Group
S
Rein Deer Is.
Chipewyan
Stony I.
Rocky R. Augt 12
Telh-tcha-ho-desseh
Thu-wu-desseh
Yes-na-gay-desseh
Petite R. de Jean Augt 11th
Grande R. de Jean
Ft. Resolution T.O.V.T.
61°
Slave R.
Longitude
113°
112°
111°
110°
109°
108°
107°



London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1836.



John Arrowsmith.

the same which has been observed at so many other points, from Behring's Straits to Point Turnagain, I have myself no doubt, being persuaded of this chiefly by the drift-wood, evidently proceeding from the Mackenzie, which I found on this shore. But as the Society, in the present paper, looks to me, I am persuaded, rather for facts than reasoning, I forbear from entering on the wide field of speculation which the subject affords.

The Esquimaux whom we met near this part of the coast differed but little from those I had previously seen. They were somewhat more regularly and liberally tatooed than the people near the Mackenzie; and the beards of the men were more ample, not unaccompanied in some cases with a degree of baldness, which by apparently enlarging the forehead improved the physiognomy. The loss of poor Augustus, however, deprived us of an interpreter; and our intercourse with them was consequently brief and unsatisfactory, marked on our side by a show of confidence which we did not altogether feel, and on theirs by a distrust which they were at little pains to conceal.

II.—*Account of the Rivers Amazon and Negro, from recent Observations.* Communicated by Lieutenant Smyth, R. N. Read 14th December, 1835.

The general course of the Marañon, or River Amazon, is tolerably well laid down in our modern maps; but the situations assigned to the towns on the upper part of it want correction, towards which I hope I have some means of contributing, from observations made in the course of a recent journey from Lima to Para, which was undertaken with the hope of ascertaining that, from the port of Mayro, on the Pachitea, that river might be found navigable to its junction with the Ucayali,—and that, by means of the latter and the Marañon, or River Amazon, a good communication might be found to exist between Peru and the Atlantic Ocean. A new and increased interest would thus be given to the greatest river in the world, which receives into its bed near twenty tributary streams, each of which is also a mighty river. The object of this journey, it is true, was not attained, for reasons which will be laid before the public; but it is not necessary here to detail them; suffice it merely to say, that we were unable to accomplish the land journey to Mayro.

The general error of the maps is in assigning to the rivers Huallaga and Ucayali, and to all the towns on the upper part of the Marañon, a position too far to the eastward, in some instances even exceeding a degree; for the astronomical observations that we made came in all cases so near to our dead reckoning, that I